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## **Remarks**

Claims 2, 3, 18, 20, 21, 23-27 and 29-33 were cancelled and claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 19 and 22 were amended. The cancellation and amendment of claims is without prejudice to future prosecution. Please charge deposit account 13-2755 for fees due in connection with this amendment.

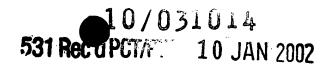
Respectfully submitted,

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## Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

## Changes to the Claims:

- 1. (Amended Once) A purified nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for [at least 5 contiguous amino acids of] SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.
- 4. (Amended Once) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises [at least about 18 contiguous nucleotides of] SEQ. ID. NO. 7.
- 9. (Amended Once) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for [a polypeptide comprising at least 5 contiguous amino acids of] SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8.
- 11. (Amended Once) The expression vector of claim 10, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes for [at least 9 contiguous amino acids of] SEQ. ID. NO. 8.
- 19. (Amended Once) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence [encoding for at least about 9 contiguous amino acids] of SEQ. ID. NO. 4, SEQ. ID. NO. 6 or SEQ. ID. NO. 8, wherein said polypeptide is substantially free of associated proteins.
- 22. (Amended Once) A method for screening for a compound able to bind a MCH receptor comprising the steps of:
- (a) expressing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO. 4[7] or SEQ. ID. NO. 6[7, or a fragment thereof, from recombinant nucleic acid, provided that said fragment comprises at least about 9 contiguous amino acids of SEQ. ID. NO. 8];

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(b) providing to said polypeptide a test preparation comprising one or more test compounds; and

(c) measuring the ability of said test preparation to bind to said polypeptide.